

PARIS PIKE CORRIDOR COMMISSION

MINUTES

Council Chambers
Paris City Hall

July 14, 2014

Attendance

Members Present: Ben Blyton; Johnny Brennan; Bettye Burns; and Dan Thompson.

Staff Present: Mike Asalon; Bill Sallee; Barbara Rackers; and Stephanie Cunningham

Chairman Thompson called the meeting of the Paris Pike Corridor Commission to order at 12:07 p.m. on July 14, 2014.

Mr. Thompson stated that the minutes of the April 14, 2014, meeting had been presented for approval. A motion was made by Ms. Burns, seconded by Mr. Brennan, and carried 4-0 to approve the minutes

OLD BUSINESS

1. Maintenance of Stone Fences on Paris Pike – Mr. Thompson stated that, at the last meeting, some questions were raised about the maintenance of the stone fences along Paris Pike. He indicated at that time that he would contact the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC) to see if he could obtain further information. In the meantime, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* ran two articles addressing the issue of the stone fences. In their response to the articles, KTC explained that funds were never included in their budget for the maintenance of the fences. Mr. Thompson noted that, some time ago, inmates from the Blackburn Correctional Institute had repaired some portions of the fences as part of a training program, but he was not aware if that program was ongoing.

Mr. Blyton asked if the PPCC should draft a letter to KTC, expressing their concern for the lack of maintenance of the stone fences, since the *Herald-Leader* articles insinuated that the Commission bore some responsibility for the fences. Mr. Thompson suggested that Mr. Blyton should draft the letter, but Mr. Blyton declined. Mr. Sallee stated that the staff could draft a letter, and circulate it to the members prior to their next meeting.

2. Operation of Business at 2651 Paris Pike – Ms. Burns stated that she had taken photos of the possible business activities ongoing at the residence at 2651 Paris Pike, and emailed them to Ms. Rackers. She added that a Google search for that address returns Better Business Bureau reviews and other information indicating that the residence is being used as a business. Ms. Rackers indicated that she had forwarded the photos to Jim Hume of the Zoning Enforcement section, who had previously inspected the property and determined that no unauthorized activities were taking place.

Mr. Blyton asked if the property owners were merely paying the fines for the zoning violations, and continuing to operate a business on the property. Mr. Sallee replied that some business owners operate in such a fashion, considering the fines as part of the “cost of doing business.” He added that the staff could ask Mr. Hume to attend the Commission’s October meeting to provide an update on any enforcement activities on the property.

Mr. Brennan stated that Mr. Hume had inspected the property during the workday, when all of the business vehicles were away from the property. Ms. Burns said that she had taken the photos of the trucks on the property on a Sunday.

Mr. Blyton asked the staff to invite Mr. Hume to attend the October meeting in order to provide an update on the enforcement activities on the property. Mr. Sallee agreed to do so.

Mr. Brennan asked if the property owner had been issued a cease and desist letter. Ms. Cunningham answered that Mr. Hume had determined that the only business taking place on the property was the owner’s home occupation, for which he had a valid permit. Mr. Sallee explained that it is permissible in Fayette County to have a small office in one’s home, primarily for recordkeeping purposes for work that is done in another location. In those situations, no employees are allowed to work on the property, and there is a square footage limitation as well. Mr. Sallee added that the property owner is not permitted to park multiple trucks on the property as part of a home occupation or a home office permit.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Recognition of Former Members

Mr. Sallee stated that he had sent a memo to the PPCC members a few weeks ago to determine if there were any additional acknowledgements they would like to make as part of their 20th anniversary year, and to suggest a list of possible honorees. He said that, if the Commission members choose to recognize additional individuals, it would be done at their October meeting in Lexington.

Mr. Blyton stated that he would like to recognize the LFUCG Planning staff members who assist the PPCC, since they do the bulk of the work to make the Commission function. Mr. Thompson said that he would like to acknowledge the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, since it had been the biggest supporter of the PPCC, but he was not sure how to recognize an institution. Mr. Sallee stated that the Division of Planning typically honors board and commission members with a proclamation thanking them for their time and service. He added that, while the staff appreciated the sentiment, it would be unusual for them to prepare resolutions for themselves. Mr. Thompson stated that he agreed with Mr. Sallee's list of potential honorees, particularly Governor Beshear, who was the first Chair of the PPCC. Ms. Burns said that she would like to add Fernita Wallace to the list of candidates.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the staff prepare some recognition for LFUCG. Mr. Sallee agreed that that would be appropriate. Mr. Blyton asked what would be the best means for recognizing LFUCG. Mr. Sallee answered that the PPCC could thank LFUCG for its support of the Commission and its duties, since its inception 20 years ago. He said that the staff could invite Commissioner Paulsen and the Mayor for the presentation of the resolution. Mr. Blyton reiterated that any recognition for LFUCG should include the staff as well. Ms. Rackers suggested that it include the Division of Planning and Department of Law, which would also cover former staff members from the Law Department such as Rochelle Boland and Chris Westover, who were included on Mr. Sallee's list of potential honorees.

Mr. Thompson asked, referring to Mr. Sallee's possible list of honorees, how Lyle Aten was involved with the creation of the PPCC. Mr. Sallee answered that Mr. Aten was the primary author of the Paris Pike Small Area Plan (PPSAP), which was the first document assembled by the PPCC after its formation. He explained that the PPSAP first introduced the concept of regulating the viewshed at a certain distance from the road, based on the old historic district maps.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Commission would like to recognize LFUCG and all its staff members; Mr. Blyton; Governor Beshear; and Mayors Castle, Hinkle, and Miller.

COMMISSION ITEMS – No such items were presented.

STAFF ITEMS

1. Paris Welcome Sign

Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Asalon if the issue of the proposed Paris welcome sign had been resolved. Mr. Asalon responded that KYDOT would not allow the sign to be placed in the Paris Pike right-of-way (on the median), as there is already a welcome sign installed on Georgetown Road. Mr. Brennan stated that a welcome sign could be placed on the side of the road, out of the right-of-way.

Mr. Blyton opined that a welcome sign on Paris Pike could be important for tourism. He suggested that the Commission send a letter to KYDOT to discuss the reasoning behind their decision. Mr. Sallee stated that the staff could discuss the issue with the staff of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), who meet with KYDOT on a monthly basis.

OTHER BUSINESS – No such items were presented.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Chairman Thompson declared the meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.